MCC NEWS

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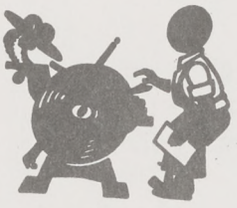
M.C.C. NEWS

EDITOR
Connie Vaughn
ASST. EDITORS
Marty Seneca
Joe Coltrane
SPECIAL REPORTER
Al Correa
ART & GRAPHICS
Erik Slater
Connie Vaughn
CIRCULATION
Rusty Carlson
STAFF
Pat Rardin
Harry Waggaman
Jimmy Borges
Ken Loihana
Dale Brown
Roy Randle



HEAD OF PUBLICATIONS
Don Hughes

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A Metropolitan Community Church Publication
Rev. Troy D. Perry, Pastor
2201 S. Union Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90007
Phone 213-748-0123

Personal Services
Phone 213-748-0123

C.I.C.
Phone 213-748-1904

SEE YOU IN CHURCH SUNDAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Trust in Him because He Is God

READ PSALMS 31:14-24

Bible Thought: ***"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen"*** **(1 Timothy 1:17).**

DAVID makes a clear, concise, simple (in a child-like sense) and basic statement of his reason for trusting in God. He trusts in God because that is what a God is for. Verse 14 suggests the personal and dependent relationship that always exists between a man and his God—no matter what name his god wears. When we make "Gods" of material things and they wear names like "clothing," "money," "houses," or "cars," we have announced by our actions that it is in these things that we put our trust. When we are depressed, we may "buy a new dress." When we feel unnoticed, we trade for a fancier car. When our economic problems mount, we take a second job or literally kill ourselves to make more money at the one we have. We have gods that we bow before every day. These gods are very much "alive" in our thinking, little do we realize that they have eyes that see not, ears that hear not, and mouths that speak not (Acts 19:26). Paul said, "They be no gods, which are made with hands." What a cheap substitute so many of us have for the true and living, only God.

Hymn: "Anywhere with Jesus."

O God, bear with us as we strive to give you your full and rightful place in our hearts. Help us eliminate all other gods and learn to trust only in thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

—CHARLES F. DICKENS, JR.

WEDNESDAY IS THE DEADLINE!!

Okay, all you Reporters, Secretaries of Clubs and Parishes, Columnists, Clergy and anyone else who submits articles for the MCC News. We love you for the copy and couldn't do it without you, BUT, in order to have some kind of order and schedule, we have established a Wednesday evening deadline. Definitely, positively, no exceptions allowed if you want your article in that weeks' issue. Otherwise it will be held over for the next week.

Have Mercy On Us, Please! We just can't possibly type your articles and get them ready for paste up, make the plates and print hundreds of copies by Sunday morning if everyone hands in their copy on Friday evening.

If you could type your own articles at least once. Check it over for clarity and spellings, double spaced so that we can easily and quickly read it and type it off real fast, then we will have a little extra time to ourselves and loved ones. You CAN, of course, submit them as early as you are ready. Anytime BEFORE Wednesday, would be real nice. This is wonderful work but really it can get exasperating at times with so much to do and no one around to help.

A VIEW FROM THE PEW

"MCC CONFERENCE - SUNDAY SEPT. 5TH"

by Al Correa

This was one of the most exciting and kinetic services we've ever had of course, there were the established Fellowship ministers, as well as the newly ordained and newly licensed ministers, new deacons and delegates from many States. Deacon Tom Purcell opened Services with his prayer, "Thank you, God, for making me a Homosexual"; after which the Sacramento, San Francisco, San Diego and Los Angeles choirs were led by John Wesley. Inevitably, they came across with the rich, deep sound of a men's chorus. Sixty-three had sung on Saturday evening, four of them women; but by Sunday, some groups had started heading for home and there may have been as few as two women left behind among a group of not less than 50 men.

Rev. Lee J. Carlton of the Tampa Church led us in prayer, saying "Bless the Elders and clergy, that their errands may fulfill the hopes of He who gave His life for us..." Rev. Jim Sandmire of Eastbay MCC (Oakland) then led us in Silent and Pastoral Prayer, saying first that Rev. Green of Chicago and Rev. Solomon of the New Orleans Mission had been in an automobile accident en route to services, Rev. Green, badly shaken,but unhurt; Rev. Solomon, in more serious condition, but doing "fine" at this writing. Rev. Sandmire's prayer, in part: "Our Father, as Your children, we approach You now filled with gratitude. We know that to bring others in relationship with You, we must 1st find that relationship curselves. Bless our Brother Solomon; we ask that Your healing influence will prevail."

Rev. Troy Perry introduced the visiting pastors from all the other churches and missions - among them, Rev. John Gill assigned to establish a mission in Atlanta; Rev. John Cavanaugh leaving to establish a mission in Detroit; and Rev. Ted Callaway who is leaving shortly to do the Lord's work in Florida.

Our Pastor said, "I want to tell you: We've had a time this weekend!"

The combined choirs then sang "Be Still My Soul". Rev. Paul Sydman of Prince of Peace Parish Mission in Milwaukee spoke briefly, saying that they were "growing in the love of the Holy Spirit." Rev. Brad Wilson of Miami said "Last year we were not yet a Chartered Church; now we've not only achieved Church status, but are looking forward to establishing Missions in Atlanta, Daytona Beach, Orlando, Ft. Lauderdale and St. Petersburg."

Rev. Richard Vincent of Dallas said: "I'll have a lot to say when I get back to Dallas! I've been greatly inspired by what's been happening here. In Dallas, we're currently averaging 30-35 on Sundays and showing growth as the vacation season comes to an end."

Rev. Howard Wells said, "The Lord's been moving in the Northern Kingdom! We're planning to hold the 1st "GAY CRUSADE SPIRITUAL RENEWAL" during Oct. 15, 16 & 17." When Rev. Perry spoke at their last Spiritual Renewal Conference, they drew 800 people; next month, they expect over 1,000.

Rev. Rodger Harrison of Christ Chapel MCC in Orange County preached the Sermon. There were so many important points made that I have more material than I generally pass on.

Rev. Harrison began by quoting Luke 9:23. "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and pick up his cross daily, and follow me." Dwelling then on the 3 conditions of Discipleship, he defined the 1st as SELF-DENIAL.

He then spoke of contemporary society where it is nearly impossible to speak of self-denial. "We are a sub-culture within the greater hedonistic society, constantly looking at ourselves and feeling lonely and sorry for ourselves." He quoted alienation , insecurity, high alcoholism,

high suicide rates, narcissism and egocentric living as marks of the Gay world. Rev. Harrison then defined self-denial as a radical re-orientation of life with the self no longer in the center. "Self-denial means allowing the will of God as known thru Jesus Christ to take the place of our own wills. Jesus said 'we must begin to habitually think about others 1st, and only casually think about ourselves.' Rev. Harrison observed, however, that it was only natural for us to focus upon others only when they disturb us. He suggested that we start the day with God, saying "What a difference it makes if we begin the day with 'Oh my head! Blue Monday, my worst day! Ten people for dinner tonight, why did I invite them?'Instead of saying: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow...

when morning gilds the skies
My heart awakening cries
May Jesus Christ be praised."

One point Rev. Harrison made (which appeared to be the single point many people retained out of the entire sermon) was "If a Gay Union is to meet any sort of MCC standard, it must involve faithfulness until death, otherwise it is not a Holy Union with the blessing and guidance of Almighty God."

Defining the 2nd condition of Discipleship, he spoke of bearing one's cross. Speaking of the lonely person who is still waiting for the "right one" Rev. Harrison said bluntly "Let us face it, there are just not enough "right ones" to go around! The bars are filled with aging Gays who are too selfish to recognize the "right one", A friend appeared recently in near ecstacy. He had just succeeded in picking up a beautiful 23 yr-old with long hair, beard, and slender firm body. The next morning, the beautiful 23 yr-old was gone." Rev. Harrison's friend said, "I don't want to get involved with that crazy kid and his problems. He never had a father, and he's mixed up by his dominant mother." Rev. Harrison then questioned what the Gay Christians' responsibility is toward personal relationships. "Is it not to enter into the beautiful, long-haired, 23 yr-old's problems as well as his body?" In short, is it only a commitment to "take your beautiful body, but not your mother-fixation or your guilt complex or your insecurity"?

Rev. Harrison defined the difference between a "Cross" we have to carry...and a "burden", saying "Burdens are the things which come to us in life. Our skin will wrinkle, our hair falls out or turns white, our eyes grow dim, even our precious sex life slows in spite of Vitamin E or oysters...These aren't Crosses, these are Burdens. Jesus said we are to deny ourselves and pick up the Cross daily. In other words we are not to complain about the burdens that come with each new day, but rather, go beyond the burdens and volunteer to do something for God and others." It also means loving someone who is unloved and unloveable, touching the alienated, recognizing the one who is thinking of suicide. "Worship can be glorious and exciting as God speaks to us and touches us in the unexpected way."

The final condition of Discipleship defined was OBEDIANCE. "The Old Testament gave us the 10 Commandments; the Torah gave us 1,044 rules; Jesus gave us only One: The Rule of LOVE.

Do you like to tip toe through the twolips?
Do you burn your candles at both ends?
Do you urn to be noticed?
Do you like to set your own table?
If you can answer YES to any of these, then come join us in the altar committee.

Each Sunday, we tip (not trip) toe down the isle--we burn a few candles, only at one end, though. We are noticed, especially if the candles don't light, and we do set our Church's Table at the altar.

It's a delight and a joy to be a part of the Church and to do such simple but IMPORTANT services for Our Church and Our God.

The pay isn't much, but the rewards are manifold, plus you do get a seat in the main sanctuary. So,if you feel the urge (and who doesn't now and then),just let yourself go and contact me, Gloyd West, head of the altar committee....and Away We Go.

OUR BIG WEEKEND CONFERENCE

The 2nd Annual General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of MCC held last weekend brought 19 MCC churches and Missions together with interested visitors from Detroit, St. Louis, Philadelphia and NYC. The Crescendos opened with "We Shall Overcome". The Friday PM Service was opened by Rev. Hose. Don Hughes, Chief of Publications and a Board Member, presented the Fellowship Competition in Newsletters. The Advocate staff were judges and picked Honolulu's "Word of Life" for 4th place, MCC-LA won 3rd place, Sacramento's "Harmony Digest" was 2nd and first place went to San Diego's "Prodigal". 11 newsletters competed.

Then 3 MCC Samaritan Bible Seminarians, Exhorters Hal Young, Andy Hallum and newly licensed Rev.L.Spangenberg.

Rev. Perry gave the keynote address declaring MCC is not Protestant nor Catholic, just Christian. Our style of Communion mattered not whether red white wine or just grapejuice was used. We Baptize either by immersion, sprinkling or pouring. Depending on your wishes, whichever method is used and that the only important matter be it done in the name of the Father,Son and Holy Ghost.

Rev. Perry noted that MCC is celebrating its 3rd birthday next month, that the 1st General Conference had only 5 churches and missions, the present number is 19 and he predicted by next year we'll have 40 churches and missions! MCC-Miami has their design, blueprints and debenture bonds prepared for ground breaking in Oct. Someone has offered $4,000.00 to the Fellowship to begin a MCC Mission in St. Louis.

Sat. early Communion was held in the Sommers Room with Rev. Gilbert, Sacramento and Rev. Cunningham, from Phoenix as celebrants. The Sat. 10AM service was opened by Dallas' Rev. Vincent with a solo by newly ordained Rev. Lee Carlton, Miami. Rev. Ron Hanson, Honolulu MCC preached the sermon. He never met a man who he couldn't learn to love. If you missed this, you have missed a truly fine speaker.

Saturday night services had the Conference choirs' competition. Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco and Sacramento choirs were presented. The greatest enjoyment came from seeing and hearing "might-mouse" Sacramento Choir, 2 men, one beautiful soprano and their young & competent, conductor-accordionist-accompanist. They sure needed courage to get up there with only 4 voices to compete with the large groups. Los Angeles' newly formed Silent Choir also presented their debut with their deaf hand signs in unison to Crescendos' Phil singing the "The Lord's Prayer". They have received an invitation along with the Crescendos to go to Phoenix MCC Dedication Services next month.

Then Rev. Alice Naumoff, MCC-San Francisco gave us a wonderful message in her most delightful style, using phrases like "give a stray cat a place to crash", "a fire escape out of hell"; the Good Book being "His Love Letter to Me", and "even the straights have souls."

Early Sun. Communion was delayed due to a car accident, putting Rev. Solomon, New Orleans Mission Pastor in the hospital and with Rev. Green MCC Chicago, slightly shook up. Rev. Solomon is expected to be released soon.

All 4 choirs sang together and then Rev. Gilbert called his 3 candidates and they were ordained deacons: Freda Smith, Tom Taylor and Jean Hart. Rev. Brad Wilson MCC-Miami then read the call of newly licensed ministers. Rev. Jon Bullock, Rev. Ted CAllaway, Rev. Paul Van Hecke, Rev. Paul Breton from Washington D.C., Rev. Lee Spangenberg, worship coordinator in Fresno Mission and Rev. John Gill, assigned to Atlanta Mission.

Also renewed licenses were Rev. Ken Jones; Rev. Alice Naumoff, S.F.; Rev. Richard Vincent, DAllas; Rev. Ruth Shivers, Dallas; Rev. Solomon, New Orleans Mission; Rev. Paul Syd-

man, Milwaukee Mission; Rev. James Sandmire, East Bay Mission; Rev. Howard Williams, S.D. and Rev. Cunningham, Phoenix MCC.

Rev. Howard Wells, S.F. and Rev. Lee Carlton, Tampa were ordained by the Fellowship clergy.

Sunday night we had the "Wings Over Jordan" Choir singing as fine as ever and then the most significant speaker of the whole conference, Dr. Evelyn Hooker, UCLA Emeritus, Chairwoman of Presidental Task Force to the National Institute for Mental Health. She made her report and gave comments upon her scientific studies of Homosexuality. We hope she will return and have more time to more fully relate to us her findings. Other than the accident and usual misunderstandings, the 2nd General Conference was a remarkable and blessed success. We came together, sang together, discussed together, ate together, prayed together and parted to our homes across this nation together in spirit to the betterment, fullfillment of our dreams and expectations of greater achievements to the glory of God.

Marty Seneca
Asst. Editor

CENTRAL PARISH NEWS

On September 7, the Central Parish opened its meeting with a prayer by Rev. Van Hecke. A Pot Luck dinner was held. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to hold Central Parish meetings monthly. Deacon John Logan presented plans for future meetings and holiday events. Robert (Skip) Beach was elected Secretary and Warren Coleman was elected Treasurer. Eighteen members were present.

Our next meeting will be held at Mr. Warren Coleman's home at 1673 1/2 Beverly Blvd. on October 19, 1971 at 7:30 p.m. We will have a guest speaker. Everyone is welcome, so come and bring your friends.

Skip Beach

BEACH PARISH...

WE WILL BE HOLDING OUR MEETING ON SEPT. 14TH, AT 425- 4TH PLACE, MANHATTAN BEACH. TEL: 379-2216.

THIS IS A SPECIAL MEETING, PLEASE ATTEND AND BRING A BROTHER OR SISTER.

VALLEY PARISH

The next meeting of the Valley Parish will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 14th at Markwell Plaza, 11839 Magnolia, Apartment 14 in North Hollywood. Call 763-9305. It starts at 8 PM.

Rev. Jon Bullock will be the main speaker....."The Hungry I". Come and join us.

PEOPLE OF FRESNO

On behalf of myself and Ted, I wish to thank each and everyone of you for the hospitality and warmth you showed to us during the time I was working as the LA Worship Coordinator for the Fresno Mission. We both feel that the miles traveled were well worth the results that have come to pass. For us to have been any part of the beautiful growth of the Fresno Mission is a wonderful feeling. A special thanks to Ann and Marge as well as Pastor Cook and David for sharing your homes with us, but a very large thank you to each and every person we met and enjoyed being with. Even with some set backs we all know that God is working wonders in Fresno and that MCC Fresno is going to become very well know in the Fellowship. God's love and the very best to you all.

With Love in Christ,
Rev. R.C. Lee Spangenberg

Do you know someone who serves on our Crisis Line? A good friend to have. He's there when you want him.

FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE --

by Herb Pomeroy

We are very sorry to report that Kevin has had to take an extended leave of absence due to illness and we wish to let him know that we will miss him but hopefully he will be able to return at a later date. In the meantime all of you will have to put up with me. I want all of you to know that I will be at your service and will try to help any and all of you as best I can.

The office is as it has been in the past, busy with a great number of phone calls, wedding arrangements being made and of course people in daily to converse with Rev. Perry. It is especially busy at this time right after the General Conference as we are in the process of trying to get the information and all of the By-Law changes compiled so we will be able to get the new copies out to our people sooner than we did last year.

Rev. Perry also has been quite busy. This past week he had a speaking engagement before the Sociology Class at Cal-State, LA on Wednesday. He has also been entertaining Rev. John Gill of New York and trying to give him as much information as possible so that when Rev. Gill leaves he will be well prepared to start our Mission in Atlanta, Georgia.

Rev. David Solomon is still in the Hospital but is feeling well and would would like to relay to all of you that he thanks you for the prayers that have been said for his recovery. We are sincerely hopeful that Rev. Solomon will soon be out of the hospital and will be fully recovered in a short period of time.

It was a great pleasure for me to get to meet all of the Ministers and Delegates from all over the country and to be able to work with a few of them. I want to thank Larry Wrona, Kathy Laine and Shawn Farrell for their assistance in the registration of the delegates and Russell Quest and Howard Coburn for their assistance in getting our many guests placed in homes of our members for the conference weekend.

Those of us in the office also wish to thank Jay Heckman and his crew of people who worked so hard to provide all of us with breakfast, lunch and dinner while we were having our conference, a very good job well done.

We also wish to thank Terry (Spider) Luton and his crew for the work that was done to keep our building clean for the conference. Floors in the Sanctuary were washed on hands and knees by one young man and we do appreciate this very much.

That is all that I can think of at the present time, so until next week, God be with all of you.

2 MEN WED IN SAME-SEX RITES
MINNEAPOLIS (UP)

Jack Baker, Pres. of the University of Minn. Student Assoc., and his roommate, Michael McConnell, were married in a private ceremony Friday, it was revealed.

"Jack and Michael were married at 8 PM Friday by Roger Lynn, a Methodist minister, in America's first legally recognized same-sex marriage," John Preston, a friend of the two 28-year-old men, told a news conference.

TV - THE ULTIMATE MEDIUM

MCC-TV? by Al Correa

On Sunday Aug. 15th, Rev. Perry revealed a dream he's been cherishing. He wants to conduct his own talk show on television.

This announcement didn't produce immediate excitement on my part. Rather, it crept up on me throughout the day, like certain cold remedies that are timed to release their medicinal effects at regular intervals. After sleeping on it I awoke next morning with the realization that no other single factor could ever do more to achieve national acceptance of homosexuality than this amazing proposal, casually mentioned from our pulpit in Los Angeles. Its scope is so immense, its vision so grand, and its success so certain that I can barely contain my excitement enough to grasp its concept so I can write competently about it.

Imagine a talk show with guests who are prominent, acknowledged homosexuals. Monumental figures like W. H. Auden, Christopher Isherwood, Kate Millett. Once the shock of the first few initial shows subsided such pride and courage would develop in the hearts of our people that there would be a gradual avalanche of prominent chemists, surgeons, actors,writers, etc. prepared to appear, not only as the best in their field, but also as members of our unusual minority. The artists, celebrities and talent we could muster would be so phenomenal that within a year the nation would be seriously wondering if homosexuality was not truly a prerequisite of the process of creativity.

How would this affect our Church?

Such a program could act as the most profound catalyst for growth one could imagine. Through the expedient of using Television as an educational medium, Rev. Perry might also achieve the side-effect of generating a reawakened interest in Christianity in general, and Metropolitan Community Church in particular. Jim Kepner of the ADVOCATE predicted once that the Metropolitan Denomination could become the largest Denomination of the American Protestant Church; if anything were to achieve this goal it would be a TV show such as this.

Who would sponsor such a program?

That's a good question...There are many prosperous gay-owned companies; we can only pray that courage and personal convictions would prevail amoung our many hidden friends. Perhaps the best we can count on are silent supporters--quiet gifts to purchase air-time from business people not yet ready to become advertisers. This is clearly beyond the scope of this article. The obstacles are many. The problems haven't even been documented, so their solutions are unknown.

All we have is the most exciting solution for educating the public, yet no clear manner of achieving it. Do YOU have a suggestion? If you do, write to me:

I'll see that the Board of Directors sees your comments.

Towards the end of his announcement Rev. Perry said, "We've got to start a TV program! Our own Talk Show. We need to let people know that God loves us all -- not just a select few,and I think television is the medium we require. I want people to know who we are, I want to be able to tell them of our problems.We've come a long way but the Lord seems to be stirring in my heart, and saying:'...just wait 'til you see what we've got planned for you people in the future!'".

Al Correa
MCC
2201 So. Union Ave.
Los Angeles, Calif.90007

Why does MCC have a Crisis Line?
Ask the one who had a Crisis.

The Travelers Insurance Company
Hartford, Conn
16 July 1971

Gentlemen:

In response to your advertisement in Newsweek magazine, I would like to know why insurance companies refuse coverage, offer restricted coverage, or charge higher rates, to homosexuals as a "moral risk".

I find it very difficult to think of any type of insurance where a risk to the insurer would be increased by this kind of "moral risk". I realize, of course, that some homosexuals may be high risks, but I can't imagine that being directly related to their bedroom habits rather than other general characteristics which would apply to heterosexuals and homosexuals alike.

Automobile insurance, for instance, can probably show that the younger homosexuals have an excessive number of accidents. They can also show that single heterosexuals under 25 years of age also have an excessive number of accidents. When heterosexuals reach age 26 they lose this stigma, and go back into normal or even preferred risk rates. If I understand correctly this is not true for 26 year olds who are known to be homosexual. Are there any statistics to justify the implicit assumption that homosexuals continue to be an excessive risk after they have outgrown the impetuousness of youth? If there are no statistics to support this, what kind of distorted logic does it take to relate "moral risk" to accident insurance?

With regard to health insurance I have much the same question. Other than possibly Psychiatric care and psychotherapy (which are seldom included in health policies), and venereal disease (which is seldom reported on employer-provided health plans), what possible bearing can "moral risk" from one's bedroom habits possibly have on an appropriate premium rate? If there is a substantial loss from psychiatric care and venereal disease wouldn't it be more appropriate to merely provide an exclusion and reduce the premium to reflect the more limited scope of coverage?

The real point is whether there are any actuarial statistics to justify what they are doing. Is there merely a shared assumption by those who decide rating policies that all, or a majority, or at least a large number of homosexuals possess the high risk character traits which are noticeable among the young and/or the very obvious homosexual? If there are any actuarial statics to support these rating policies, do they separate loss experience by age, income level, educational level, etc.? Acknowledging that insurance companies have, or could easily get, statistics to show that hustlers and drag queens who congregate in Times Square are a high risk, it does not follow that Truman Capote would necessarily be a high risk. Insurance companies obviously have, or could easily get, statistics to show that B-girls in the Bowery are high risk. But they do not leap to the illogical conclusion that Jackie Onassis is high risk merely because she is also a female heterosexual. Shouldn't policies for homosexuals be based upon rational distinctions about background and personality just as they are for heterosexuals?

Turning to life insurance, I understand that insurance company practices again refuse coverage, or charge high risk rates for homosexuals. Maybe homosexuals, as a group, do die younger than heterosexuals. Is this a fact or a guess? Where is the actuarial study which demonstrates this? Is there really any study which shows that homosexuals die younger than heterosexuals who are never married? If not, are heterosexuals who have never been married denied coverage or charged higher rates?

What about heterosexually married homosexuals, (or bi-sexuals)? What logical or statistical justification is there to speculate that Walter Jenkins is a higher risk than John F. Kennedy: To make the question much

more personal, would Travelers write a usual rate policy for Walter Jenkins?

Turning to disability policies, is there any reason to believe that one's bedroom behavior is appropriate in deciding whether to write a particular policy, or the rate to charge, or the extent of coverage to provide? Are heart attacks, are auto accident injuries relatable to bedroom practices?

On more pedestrian types of insurance I believe, though it may not be a fact, that similar policies are followed. I completely fail to see any difference in danger of robbery at the gay-oriented hotels on Fire Island and the danger of robbery at the Fire Island Holiday Inn. In fact, my experience in criminal law suggests that the large and prosperous establishment-oriented businesses run a much higher risk.

Based upon loss-experience I would think that the Bank of America would be the world's worst candidate for fire insurance. Yet I feel certain that the Gay Liberation Front Headquarters would be charged a higher rate for comparable coverage. Please correct me if I'm wrong. If I am right I dare you to give a rational and actuarily sound justification for such rating policies.

In raising these questions I do not mean to direct any allegations at the Travelers. Your advertisements are addressed to the sin and imagined sins of the entire industry. Some of my questions are directed at lines of insurance that you may not write. I address the questions to you only because of your invitation to do so.

Very truly yours,
Jerry Coons

REMINDER:

DISCUSSION GROUPS START THIS FRIDAY

Come and put in your "two cents".

It's at the Church, September 17th at 7:30 PM Welcome! Come get acquainted with a small group. Talk things over. Make new friends.

SOMEONE WAS THERE

John was alone. Suddenly the apartment seemed empty as outer space. The quiet echoed in his brain. There was nothing left.

What to do? His lover had gone abruptly. And after almost two and a half good years of being together, sharing daily...a movie ...a delicious meal.... a new job...there had been good days and bad days, but they were together days.

Now this. Alone again. There had been a bitter quarrel...a couple of stubborn guys ....and too quickly a split.

John got up and put on some music, then changing his mind, he cut it off. Silence again. Nothing seemed to help. The drink was flat. The cigarette flatter. Friends? No one really could help. John felt truly alone.

Hours later John still sat surrounded by the shambles of his life. He was getting quietly desperate. Even tears didn't help. Twice during the long hours John had gone into the bathroom, opened the medicine chest and looked at bottles of little pills, and twice he had shaken his head, closed the chest door and returned to the living room. Not yet, he thought.

Now it was 3 A.M. Emotion was beginning to build. Tears once more were close. With quick decision John reached for the phone. He could hardly see to dial, but he knew the number. It had been in his thoughts all through the long night....but would someone answer?

The first ring.....the second ring. A quiet, friendly voice spoke, "MCC. May I help you?"

John was so relieved he could barely reply, but the important thing was someone was there. He had been close to the end. His journey back was just beginning, but there was a light at the end of the tunnel.

Someone was there. Someone who cared. Someone who wanted to help.

The foregoing story could be true. There are many like it. Volunteers are desperately needed to man the CRISIS telephone lines, especially during day time hours. Won't you help?

YOUR SOCIAL DIRECTOR

Wow! What a weekend for our church. A thousand beautiful people from all over America attending our general conference.

Your Social Committee prepared meals for three days and what a wonderful job they did. I am very proud of the people on my committee. Many of them slept in the basement so they could devote their time feeding the multitudes (so to speak).

I want to thank Jay and Judy Heckman, Al, Janice & Char, for fixing the most wonderful meals ever prepared by the Mother Church.

Thank you Ted, Skip, Bill for helping, we needed it.

Thanks to Larry and Earl for the loan of linen napkins and table cloths, and to Ron Wilson for the donation of fifty complete and matching sets of dishes.

Thanks to Mrs. Perry and Quinn for the loan of silver flatware for the pastors' dinner.

Thank you who have helped this past weekend.

Many of you know I love giving formal dinners in the church..where there is candlelight, silver by the ton, and enough crystal to put a real queen to shame.

To show you how efficient the kitchen committee, and purchasing committee is, when I convinced Rev. Perry not to go outside the church to a restaurant and have a dinner for the nineteen pastors and their lovers, but to have a formal dinner in the Sommers Room, I gave Jay Heckman $100, and told him to prepare the best meal fit for a King. Jay served prime Ribs, and Baked Alaska with champagne and all the usual courses in between. Thank you Jay and Al. I am so proud you enabled us to give such a beautiful dinner.

As you know our Third Birthday is in October and we are planning a dinner dance with a few surprises. A beautiful hall has been located, and all I am waiting for now is confirmation on dates, so next week tickets will start going on sale. There will only be 375 - 400 reserved tickets, so plan to buy early.

This year's birthday of M.C.C. will be the biggest event so far. I have, for you people not liking R & R music, ordered a dance band from a booking company and only one in five dances will be fast. To this I give my solemn pledge (Would I fib?). This should appeal to all ages in our congregation.

The kitchen committee needs people who can cook. If you want brunches, donate some time. No Cooks, No Brunches!

I need help in the area of ticket sales and planning. Help plan the functions, and organize the purchase of tickets. So Donate. This is the sixth appeal in two months. Many of you are only too willing to tear the functions apart looking for mistakes, but you are quite slow in helping make the function perfect as possible. So how about giving me some of your time?

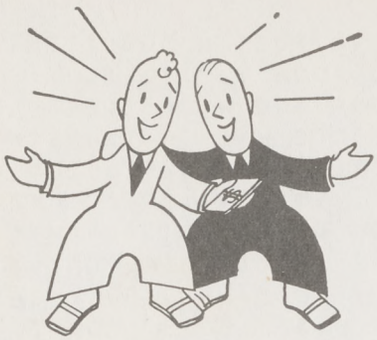
I want once again to thank our Board of Elders for letting my committee prepare the meals for the 1971 general conference, and we are looking forward to helping in 1972 at the convention center.

In Christ
Bill Bennett

FOR UNITY

WE WERE ONE AT THE START
AND NOW WE ARE MANY.
NOT JUST THE MANY OF
DIVERSITY BUT THE MANY
OF DIVISION TOO.
TRUTH IS ONE. YOU ARE ONE.
WHY CAN'T WE BE ONE? AND
KNOW IN YOU THE UNITY OF LOVE?

AMEN



THANK YOU

Both Rev. Perry and I want to extend our thanks to the Christians that helped make our Church Home so beautiful for the Conference. Working with you people is an experience I'll never forget. I was a little frustrated because I'm not as strong as I was when I could eat and couldn't do as much work as usual, but the help I had was great. It is so nice to be able to go through the Church and not have to see ugly walls and dirty floors. A special thanks to Fred Conwell and Mr. Sommers for the paneling work. To Bil White & Skip Beach for working from early morning 7 AM to late night (12 & 1 AM). It is only at MCC that I have experienced people like this.

If any of you would like to help at anytime, you can check with Bil White. He will be here most of the time and that way you can give to the cleaning of the Lord's House and still have your Saturday's free.

Your Building Admin.
Terry (Spider) Luton

DEAR Rev. Perry:

There are several people who were meeting with your "Valley Parish Group" who feel that you should take this feeling about what might seem to be a "small complaint" more seriously for the good of your growing church.

We each brought many friends after 11 O'clock on Sunday mornings because we have to make up 2 or 3 car pools from Van Nuys and that is no short distance.

All of our regular group had their clothes ruined every Sunday because of the thick dust or plain old dirt on those seats in the back. Then we got a lot of complaints from our many visitors who we would bring from as far away as New York while they were in our city on vacations. Everyone from everywhere went out so angry because their white and light summer suits were just ruined. Surely you can understand their feelings. Pants black, coats in the HOT weather soaked in dust like a dust rag.

Please acknowledge if this can be helped and we will ALL return to the Sunday services. Sincerely yours for a "Clean Church on the INSIDE" as well as the SPIRITUAL SIDE!"

Dear Cleanliness:

I appreciate your straight forwardness in bringing the matter of our dusty back auditorium to my attention. I would like to apologize for the clothes that were soiled, but....as a member of MCC, don't you think it would be easier to "light a candle rather than curse the darkness?' We at MCC are a group of "doers" of the word and not just "hearers".

The Board of Directors have set aside $30 per week to pay a custodian to clean our church. I am afraid that doesn't go very far. We need your help. Why not plan to come down to the Church and spend 30 minutes on a Saturday evening and help dust. It may not be as easy as just sitting in the chairs and participating in the services with our many visitors, but it will help us in our cleaning program.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Troy D. Perry
Pastor

WORK WELL DONE

A workman sang in the broiling sun,
A song of joy and work well done.
He worried not as he toiled all day;
His heart was right, he lived that way.
A brother toiler cursed and sweat.
The world, he said, had gone all wet.
His finished job showed frame of mind;
He soon lost out and was left behind.
It isn't the work that guides the mind;
It's the other way 'round, as you will find.
A job well done comes from the heart,
And work is sweet if we do our part.

—Anon.

YUTH YAKS...

MCC YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group had it's monthly astrological birthday party Sunday afternoon between services. The location this time,Ferndale Park. Each youth group member ate a box of Colonel Sander's Kentucky Fried Chicken. Boy was that a lot of fun. After eating we all sat around and talked girl talk but I will not go into details about that.

For any of those who want to get on the inside of our group, our only requirement is that you be from age 13-20 and want to have a lot of fun. Our meetings are every 2nd and 4th Fridays and rap-sessions every week on Wednesdays both here at the Church and both at 7:30 so get it together.

Until next week, keep the faith, baby.

Ray Hicks
Head Madame
MCC Youth Group LA

MCC TREASURER'S WEEKLY REPORT

Didn't we have a time last weekend at General Conference!

Our collections over the Conference weekend were: Envelopes $383.40, Loose Offerings $412.02, Misc. $780.26. Fellowship $1,095.85 with the total offerings MCC-LA and Fellowship at $2,671.53.

Our envelope pledges were down to 38% of what is pledged. Let's all dig a little deeper and give as giving to the Lord.

Yours in Christ,
Pat Vestal
Church Treasurer

"I wouldn't be a bit surprised to hear that the Russians invented schools."

The MAD HATTER (Dick Durant) & PUBLICATIONS DEPT.

PRESENT A

BACK TO SCHOOL POT LUCK DINNER

&

MOVIE

(Happy Birthday Davey)

FUN!

GAMES?

FOOD!

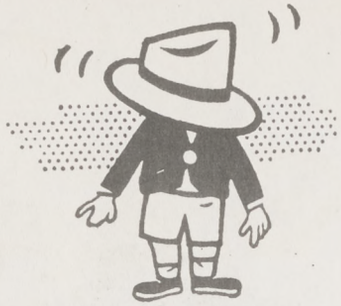
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 1971

7:00 P.M. M.C.C. Social Hall

BRING YOUR FAVORITE "DISH"

We will furnish bread, butter, salt, pepper, refreshments, dessert and FELLOWSHIP!

The Film "HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAVEY" is produced by ZENITH FILMS Dick Fontain, Producer-Director, Chuck Roy, Associate Producer.
We wish to thank ZENITH FILMS, for the contribution of this film as a money making project for M.C.C.



SEZ THE MAD HATTER

"Well, here I am. Where's the food?" Isn't that the first thing you usually hear at a party? Oh well, if that's what you want, I guess I'll just have to talk about it, much as I hate the very thought of it.....you're not taking me seriously I hope!

Your party is set, the decorations are up, the invites are out, the R.S.V.P.'s are in and everyone is anticipating another swinging party...oh, oh, you're thinking naughty thoughts.

The first thing is to determine whether you are going to have a feast, a simple pot luck, a light snack or an outdoor barbecue. Once you've decided and you have some idea as to the number of guests, the next thing, naturally...do I have to tell you everything ....Gee!...is to buy your food.

Some staples for any large party are beans and potato salads. One good place to get beans is at the Bargain Circus on La Brea. They sell large cans at reasonable prices. Before I forget, Chicken (the feathered kind) is also a good standby and is easy to fix. And for those who are really strapped for ideas, look in your local paper, Food Section, for menu party ideas.

For preparing the beans I'll leave that up to you. There are many ways and each persor has his own way of doing certain things, right!

You can pick up a good quality potato salad at the Hollywood Ranch Market, in their outdoor food stand. There is usually enough in the carton to feed between 20 or 25 people.

Another interesting fact unknown to a lot of people is "Love's Barbecue" on Hollywood Blvd. They will barbecue and cut any meat... no, no, not THAT kind...that you bring in for them to prepare. They charge according to the meat...now, now... and the weight.

From food we'll go on to liquid refreshments. If you don't drink alcohol, at least have a B.Y.O.B., then serve a punch for those who don't drink. Coffee is also a must for almost every party. Soft drinks are another standby.

To help keep your drinks cold, you can pick up a fifty pound sack of ice from the 24 hour ice service on Santa Monica Blvd., for $3.00. There is enough ice to keep for several hours, if you have a big enough can to put it in.

For extras like candy and nuts...now listen, don't let your mind wander like that...one of the cheapest places is Sears.

Try and keep your menu varied and interesting. Fix your salads up so that they are a show piece in themselves. Once again.... here is where your imagination plays an important part.

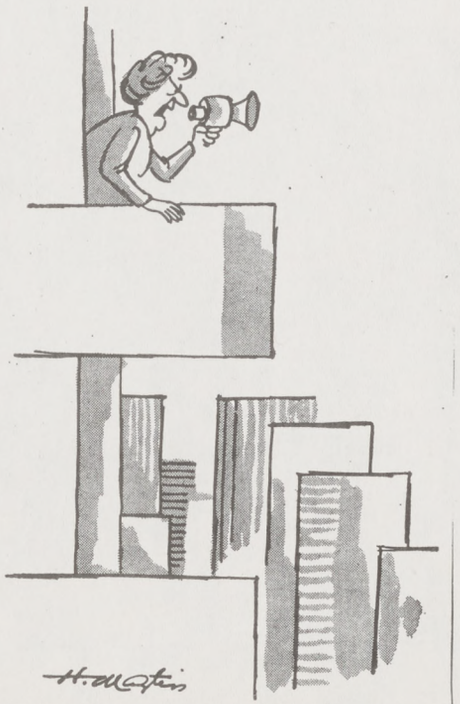
One VERY important fact and one that a lot of hostesses....sorry, I mean host....or do I? Anyway, a good _____(fill in) will serve not what he or she likes so much, but will serve that which will please the guests the most.

If you have the same people over, try and discover what their favorite dish is--then have it--there goes your mind again!

It's also true...the way to a man's _____ (fill in) is through his tummy!

Speaking of that, I'll be tumming along until next week, when we will finally put the guests to work.

BURP
Dick Durant
The Mad Hatter



"I, Lydia Thornberry, am beginning to bear malice toward some"

MORE LACE FROM THE LAVENDER LADIES

All week I have been asked the same question, and that is, "When are the LAVENDER LADIES going to do another show. Well, to those that missed our last newsletter article, we will be doing our next show on the 25th of September.

We are going to do it for the publications department.

We as a group (and myself for sure) think that the newsletter staff are doing a good job of being brothers and sisters to those of us that need help and a friend that we can turn to for understanding.

We had a great turn out at our last performance and with your support, we were able to help the Deacons who are helping those in our community that are less fortunate than ourselves.

We are now in rehearsal for our next show and we hope with your support, we will be another success.

Well, it looks as if we have a young lady that doesn't have a name and it looks as though we have to find her one. We have decided to let the membership of M.C.C. pick her a name, and the winner of the naming contest will receive 2 tickets to the show on 25th. So, get your names in to the Lavender Ladies just put your selected name in an envelope and give it to Connie in publications. She will see that we get the envelopes.

Until the next time
Yours in Christ,
The Lavender Ladies
Lori Oswald

SURVIVORS ANONYMOUS

Eight attended Survivors Anonymous, August 30th at the 7 P.M. regular weekly meet. All meetings are held in the Sommers Room, each Monday at 7 P.M.

Discussion centered about how to disarm self destructive urges, when a person is feeling fine. Statistics demonstrate that it is a state of relatively good feeling when most suicides occur. There is little information on the subject, but Survivors Anonymous is exploring this aspect. As a side issue,methods of lifting some of the social taboos about any discussions of suicide are gone into.

The group meetings are open to all. A cordial invitation is extended. Only admission is the answer to the question, "Been raging at yourself-- or others -- lately?"

Charles Lucas
C.I.C.

A heart felt thanks to MCC in my hour of sorrow.

I'm very humbled to know that you grieve for me at this time. I ask you for your continuing prayers for my parents in this time of sorrow.

Bless you all for the beautiful flowers that were sent, the cards so thoughtfully and lovingly sent. Each and everyone that gave me a kind word and Christian thought of encouragement, all I can say is that my sister is with Christ and is watching out for us. Thanks again,

Love in Christ
Ralph Parham &
Jerry Angus

As part of our monthly "Meet Your Elected Officials",

THE GAY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

presents

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN

JOEL WACHS

speaking on Forms of Oppression in the Gay Community and How To End It, at M.C.C.'s main sanctuary 1:30 PM

Sunday, September 19, 1971

Seven or more candidates for the 48th Assembly District Seat will also discuss their platforms. They will be introduced by Attorney Herb Selwyn.

GCA Phone: 463-2058
$1 contribution

GCA will serve luncheon in MCC's Social Hall after morning services.

WHEN IS A MAN EDUCATED?

When he can look out upon the universe, now lucid and lovely, now dark and terrible, with a sense of his own littleness in the great scheme of things, and yet have faith and courage. When he knows how to make friends and keep them, and above all when he can keep friends with himself. When he loves flowers, can hunt the birds without a gun, and feel the stir in a forgotten joy in the laugh of a child. When star-crowned trees and the glint of sunlight on flowing waters subdue him like the memory of one much loved and long dead. When he can be happy alone, and high-minded among the meaner drudgeries of life. When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something besides mud, and into the face of the most forlorn mortal and see something beyond sin. When he knows how to live, how to love, how to hope, how to pray—glad to live, and not afraid to die, in his hands a sword for evil, and in his heart a bit of song.

—*Joseph Fort Newton*

OUR CHURCH NEEDS NO MONEY!

We have discovered a way for a church to function without money. Will you cooperate?

Each member will come to the services dressed warmly enough to eliminate any necessity for heating the building. This will dispose of the winter heat bill.

Each member will take his turn playing the organ. Then no organist or music director will be needed-that is, if each one in turn will direct the choir, the congregational singing and arrange for rehearsal.

Those who wish to use water will bring their own bottle. Each person will provide his own hymnal and music in the choir. Each member will bring his own supplies for printing them. This will eliminate the expense of office help and equipment.

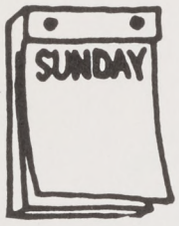
Each member will take his turn preaching, leading the service, conducting funerals, performing marriages, calling on members and prospects, visiting the sick, and guiding the administration of the Church. This will save the expense of a pastor's salary! Each will take his or her turn (like the Mormons) serving two years as a missionary.

This way we can be known as the "Church That Needs No Money". What a spectacle it will make as men, women and children bundled up head and foot and walk dutifully to church carrying water bottles, brooms, dust mops, sheet music, sermon manuscripts, hammers and saws, candles and other such baggage!

Isn't this a Great idea? A new day is dawning for the "Church That Needs No Money". WOULD YOU REALLY WANT IT THIS WAY?

But actually, your church needs no money. YOU are the one who uses the heat, light, water, and music. YOU are the one who makes use of the Pastor, the office, the janitor, as you sit in your spot, comfortable and happy. So, which will it be? The weekly candles and mops, or the weekly envelope containing your tithe?

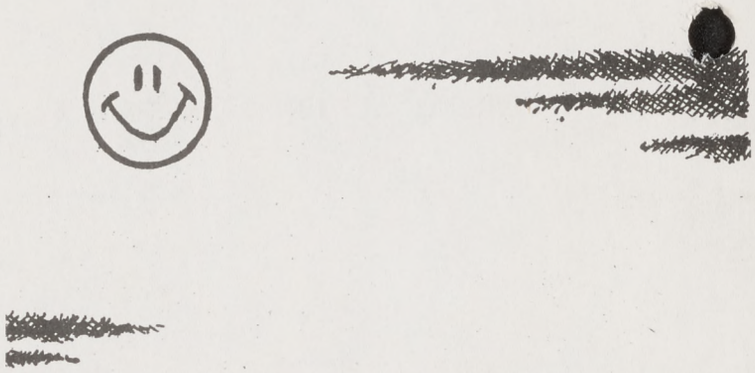
"Here's a lifetime of 'Do it yourself'."



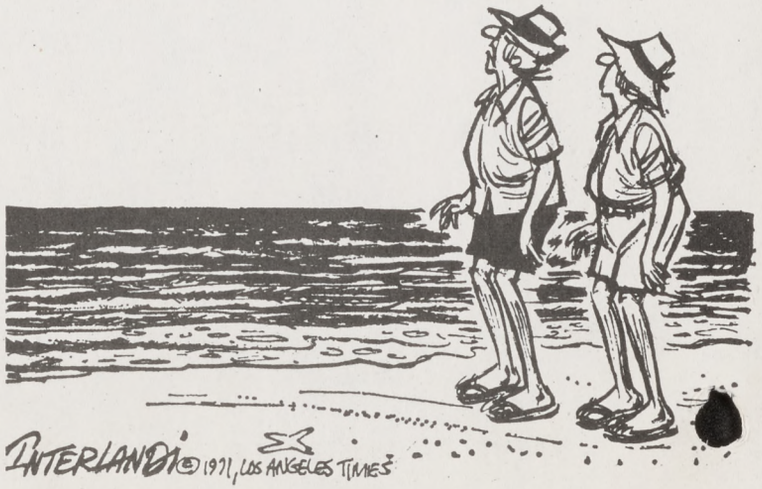
Our Church Calendar

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH	7:00 PM	BACK TO SCHOOL POT LUCK DINNER MCC Social Hall
	7:00 PM	SURVIVORS ANONYMOUS Seminary Room
	7:30 PM	SILENT CHOIR REHEARSAL Choir Room
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH	8:00 PM	VALLEY PARISH MEETING Markwell Plaza 11839 Magnolia - Apt. 14 No. Hollywood-Phone 763-9305
	8:00 PM	LAVENDER LADIES 5121 Hollywood Blvd.
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH	8:00 PM	WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETING Main Sanctuary
	8:00 PM	LONG BEACH PARISH Roller Skating -Hippodrome 638 Alamitos Ave. Long Beach - Phone 435-8233
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH	6:00 PM	LITURGICAL CHOIR REHEARSAL Choir Room
	7:00 PM	CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
	7:30 PM	C.I.C. MEETING Seminary Room
	7:30 PM	MCC MOTORCYCLE CLUB Sommers Room
	8:30 PM	ALCOHOLICS TOGETHER MEETING Social Hall
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH	7:00 PM	HULA HULA DANCE CLASS Social Hall - Call 663-5809 or 627-5193 (After 7 PM weekdays)
	7:30 PM	DISCUSSION GROUP Seminary Room
	7:30 PM	COUPLES CLUB MEETING Art & Wally's RSVP:223-8081
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH	10:00 AM	LAVENDER LADIES 5121 Hollywood Blvd. (Outrigger Tropical Fish)

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH	8:30 AM	LITURGICAL CHOIR REHEARSAL
	9:00 AM	HOLY COMMUNION
	9:30 AM	COMMUNICANT'S CLASS
	9:30 AM	ACADEMY
	9:30 AM	COFFEE SOCIAL HOUR
	10:00 AM	CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
	10:30 AM	SINGSPIRATION
	10:45 AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL Seminary Class Room
	11:00 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
	7:00 PM	CHRIST CHAPEL MCC COSTA MESA
	7:00 PM	MCC LA EVENING SERVICE



MCC is planning a coffee-house ministry in the Hollywood Blvd-Selma Avenue area. Until this necessary ministry can get off the ground, preparatory needs must be met: we need brains for constructive ideas towards making the coffee-house a functioning and successful reality and brawn to help prepare the building (cleaning, fixing, decorating, etc.). If you've got some free time, any free time in the next month(s), contact John Gooch, Lyle Gerard, or leave a message with Herb in the main office. Let's make this ministry a successful one and pitch in to help!



"Now that's carrying a fad too far!"